

Message Text

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21

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3903

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1958

FOLLOWING TEL MADRAS 241 DTD 07 FEB 76 RCVD NEW DELHI BEING
REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRAS 0241

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: INDIA BOARD MEMBERS OF WORLD VISION RELIEF ORGANIZATION

REF: NEW DELHI 1795

1. JOHN WILFRED RETIRED THREE YEARS AGO FROM THE INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE. HE WAS AT ONE TIME CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK AND HIS LAST POST WAS AS HIGH COMMISSIONER IN GUYANA. AMONG CLOSE FRIENDS HE WAS KNOWN TO BE AN ADMIRER OF INDIRA GANDHI, BUT SINCE THE IMPOSITION OF THE EMERGENCY HE HAS BECOME CRITICAL OF HER. A RELIABILITY VIS A VIS THE NEW RULING POWERS IN TAMIL NADU COULD DEVELOP FROM THE FACT THAT HE IS THE BROTHER OF DR. M. SANTOSHAM, LEADER OF THE BHARAT LOK DAL (BLD), A MEGGED GROUP OF THE SWATANTRA PARTY AND THE PEOPLE'S PARTY. SANTOSHAM ADDRESSED THE DMK COIMBATORE DISTRICT CONFERENCE RECENTLY AND DELIVERED A SPIRITED ATTACK ON THE EMERGENCY. SANTOSHAM EXPECTS TO BE ARRESTED DURING THE PRESENT SWEEP.

2. DR. D. DANIEL SUNDARAJAN (ADDRESS NR 7 DEWAN BAHADUR, SHANMUGHA MUDALIER ST., KILPAUK, MADRAS 600010) WAS DEAN OF AGRICULTURE AT THE TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY IN COIMBATORE FROM 1972-74 AND RETIRED IN 1974. HE WAS PROFESSOR OF

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BOTANY AT THE UNIVERSITY FOR 25 YEARS PRIOR TO BECOMING DEAN.

SUNDARAJAN IS NOT INTERESTED IN POLITICS, HIS OVERWHELMING INTEREST BEING CHRISTIAN RELIEF WORKS.

3. REV. CORNELIUS IS NO LONGER WITH WVRO, HAVING LEFT THE ORGANIZATION VERY RECENTLY TO TAKE UP A PASTORATE IN MUSSOORIE, NEAR DEHRA DUN. HE FELT THAT THE WVRO WAS LOSING ITS CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AS A RESULT OF DEVELOPING INTO A LARGER ORGANIZATION.

COMMENT: WILFRED COULD BE TARRED BY THE CRACKDOWN IN THE STATE, BUT MORE BECAUSE OF HIS BROTHER'S ACTIVITIES AND OUTSPOKENNESS THAN HIS OWN. SUNDARAJAN APPEARS TO BE SUFFICIENTLY APOLITICAL AS TO CAUSE NO HARM TO THE WVRO.

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